

## ***A Blast from the Past***

### **You're in the CCC**

That means the Civilian Conservation Corps. It was organized by the United States Government in the spring of 1933, to furnish employment for young men, to help conserve the country's natural resources. The CCC gives you an opportunity to prepare yourself for a more successful and useful life afterwards. Upon entering camp you will find yourself part of a new life. It may seem strange at first. You live and work with 200 other men of about your own age. The camp is likely located in some forest or park. It may be difficult to accustom yourself to these new surroundings, especially if you lived in a large town or city, but it's a healthful life. You are required to work a regular number of hours each week. You will get up at a designated time every morning and be in bed by a regular time each night. You will perform an honest day's work. You receive food, clothing and a comfortable, if not elaborate, place in which to live. You will be paid each month and be given many opportunities for recreation, study and personal development...

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## **2005: the year in review**

Many significant accomplishments and goals achieved  
by Donna Stimpson, MA CCC Comm. Program Coordinator

### **Requests and Donations**

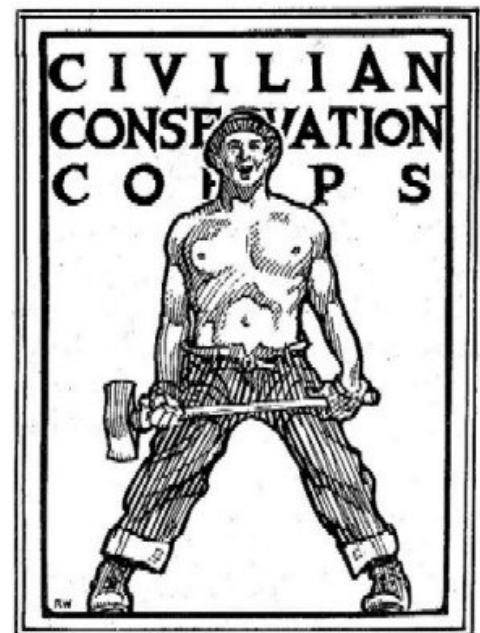
Many requests were received for research information on CCC alumni, former members, a husband, father, grandfather or brother. Material donations were also received, such as photographs, written documents, a CCC banner, foot locker, and items from a former Corps camp in Ashburnham, MA, now private property.

### **www.massmoments.org**

On April 13<sup>th</sup> this website featured the story *First CCC Enrollees Arrive at Ft. Devens: April 13, 1933*. This Massachusetts history website was created in January 2005 by the MA Foundation for the Humanities. Be sure to check it out and add it to your Favorites.

### **Francis Derwin Honored**

Francis Derwin, a CCC Alumni and member advisor of the CCC Committee from Quincy, MA was elected in October to become the Northeast Director of National Association Civilian Conservation Corps at the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual CCC Reunion in Rapid City, South Dakota. He has served on the Massachusetts CCC Committee since its inception in 1998, and



serves as President of Chapter 60 CCC Alumni in Quincy, MA since 1982. Francis has been active over the years filing state legislation to honor a special member each year with greetings from the Governor. In 1998 he served as "poster child" during the former Department of Environmental Management's Centennial Celebration, raising funds for the CCC statue at Freetown State Forest. He has demonstrated his commitment to the legacy of the Corps. Congratulations Francis!

*2005 in Review, continued on page 4*

## 2006 Theme: Educators in the CCC

**Honoring the teachers and trainers in the Corps camps,**  
by Tim Rayworth, DCR Northeast Region Env. Ed. Coordinator

While pavilions, roads, ponds and tree plantations are lasting reminders of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), acquiring the skills and knowledge to function in the camps was an important part of the experience too. This year we celebrate the role education and training played in the Corps.

No other aspect of the CCC can compare to the work it did from 1933-42: The Cs built 138,000 miles of trails and roads, created 711 brand-new parks, spent 6 million days fighting fires, and planted 2-3 billion trees. But the number of young men prepared for the workforce by the Corps is also impressive: 3 million men received on-the-job and formal training and 40,000 illiterate men were taught to read. By 1939, when the unemployment rate was still almost one-in-five, 450,000 men actually accepted jobs before end of their enrollment term. The same program that produced such results improving the land also improved a generation of young men.

CCC Director Robert Fechner recognized the role of education in his 1939 annual report:

*"I want enrollees to have every possible educational and training opportunity that can be given to them without sacrificing the CCC work program... I am hopeful that at the end of this year I can report that each enrollee received ten hours of general and vocational study each week."*

Fechner was never "in favor of shortening the work week of forty hours to provide additional time for schooling," but, like President Roosevelt, he believed that the Corps "improve[ed] the citizenship, the character, the health and the all-around usefulness of young men enrolled in the Corps." Early adoption of this idea is why just seven months after the CCC began, Roosevelt, Fechner, and other officials established a formal education program in the Corps.

Education in the CCC had a rigid structure of advisors and assistants. In December 1933, Roosevelt appointed Clarence S. Marsh, dean of the evening session of the University of Buffalo, to be the CCC Director of Education. A committee with representatives from each participating agency provided guidance for Marsh. He hired unemployed teachers as Education Advisors to oversee programs the camps.

Each of the approximately 1000 advisors earned \$146 per month. Education Advisors could select an assistant from the men in the camps who would earn \$45 per month; education was supported from the top offices of the CCC all the way into the barracks.

On-the-job training was the preferred approach by the agencies.

*Educators, continued on page 3*

## Coming Events

### **CCC Day 2006, Boston**

**March 30, noon  
Room 2B, Statehouse,  
Boston.**

Recognize and honor the CCC Educational Advisors at the signing of a proclamation by the legislature and Governor Mitt Romney. All CCC alumni and friends are welcome. Anyone who has info about the Education Advisors contact: Francis Derwin, 80 Clay Street, Quincy, MA 02170. Or call (617) 471-5664.

### **CCC in the Blue Hills**

**Blue Hills Reservation  
Milton**

**Saturday, April 1  
1pm-3pm**

CCC Co. #1170 men lived and labored here from 1933-37. Join us to honor the work of Roosevelt's "Tree Army". A short car pool and hike to the CCC camp site. Program is not wheelchair accessible. (617) 698-1802 x213 for registration and meeting place.

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/metroboston/blue.htm>

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### The Educators

*Continued from page 2*

These agencies provided technical advisors to train men in the use of heavy equipment, silviculture, landscaping, wildlife management, construction practices, and other skills required to complete work projects.


Classroom instruction was either academic or vocational, and was available in the evenings. Enrollees who had little schooling could get the “three Rs” of reading, writing, and arithmetic. Others studied literature, nature, or spent time in the camp library. Others could explore trades like photography, radio operation, or engine repair. Some enrollees participated in correspondence courses to get even more advanced training.

The quality of the education correlated to the advisor’s ability. But one district educational advisor summarized the opportunities this way to recruits at an orientation meeting in 1939:



*An Education Advisor supervises Corps during an engine class at 135<sup>th</sup> Co. Brimfield Camp S-60, c.1936.*

*“Now, it is amazing what we have to train you men with—things that schools never thought of having. You will have opportunities you thought you never would have...which will enable you to say to an employer: ‘Well, Mr. Smith, I worked with a pick and shovel out at a CCC camp. I have driven a truck for six months without an accident. I worked on a caterpillar, worked in the carpenter shop for three months...in addition, I have completed a course in surveying and I have this certificate to show you.’ He is going to prick up his ears.”*

A nation pricked up its ears, and we are still listening. 

### The CCC Educational Kit

Just as education was an important part of a young men’s experience in the CCC, now young people and families can learn about the CCC in state and urban parks. An educational kit will soon showcase how the Corps shaped land and men in Massachusetts. The CCC kit provides activities, games, props and background for staff to use with visitors. Look for programs using the new CCC kit in DCR parks this summer.

### Coming Events

*continued*

#### Blue Hills Conservation Project

In early March, Boy Scout Arthur Melville from Troop 3, Milton, tackles a tough Eagle Scout project reclaiming CCC work in the park. Nature is rapidly overtaking the cement foundations and remains of the CCC camp located east of Randolph Avenue. For more info call: **(617) 698-1802 x213**

#### CCC Breakheart Hike

**Breakheart Reservation Saugus**

**Sun., April 2, 10am-noon**  
(Move your clocks ahead for daylight savings time!)

Join a Ranger for this easy to moderate 2-mile hike. Discover some of the CCC handiwork, followed by a 20-minute slideshow. Meet at the Visitor Center located off Lynn Fells Parkway in Saugus.  
**(781) 233-0834**

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/metroboston/breakhrt.htm>

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### 2005: the year in review

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#### Walter Sekula

Former Northeast Director, Walter Sekula of Norwich, CT became 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President of NACCCA. Walter still serves on the National Board of Directors and is very active in attending programs, meetings and other CCC gatherings across the United States.

#### Friends of Upton State Forest formed

Ellen Arnold of Upton, spearheaded the formation of this new Friends Group to support efforts at Upton State Forest, which was deemed as significantly adding to the quality-of-life to surrounding communities. In June the first public meeting was held to gauge interest and support, with over forty people representing diverse interests in attendance. Since then the group has held several working meetings, elected officers, with Arnold becoming its president, and started the necessary paperwork to become a legitimate non-profit organization. The main thrust of

their historical agenda concerns the three remaining buildings of CCC Camp SP-25 near the intersection of Westborough and Southborough Roads. The buildings were later used by the MA State Guards as Camp Stover, a Dept. of Fish and Wildlife lab and the Dept. of Environmental Management mounted horse patrol base. Located in an area that has great historical significance the site is also within the Blackstone Valley National Heritage Corridor. On October 14<sup>th</sup> a historical marker was dedicated to the CCC Program and Alumni that coincided with the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the forming of the camp at this state forest. Eighty-one guests came from across the state, united by the desire to honor the role of the corps and preserve the area's resources.

#### Raycroft Restoration

In August SCA-AmeriCorps (Student Conservation Association) completed repairs to the spectacular Raycroft Lookout

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### 2008: CCC 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

2008 is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps. Start planning those events and programs now. Some ideas presented at the DCR CCC Committee Meeting were for the Northeast States to partner in an event that could be held at the Eastern States Exposition, or develop a roving exhibit that travels to each state. Suggestions, comments or ideas for programs to make the 75<sup>th</sup> a special occasion send to: CCC Committee, c/o Mount Greylock State Reservation, P.O. Box 138, Lanesborough, MA 01237 attn: Donna Stimpson or email: [mount.greylock@state.ma.us](mailto:mount.greylock@state.ma.us)

### Coming Events

*continued*

#### CCC Day 2006, Wendell

**April 8, 10am- 5pm**

**Wendell State Forest**

Tour 116<sup>th</sup> Company campsite. Featuring stone walls, dam, slues way and dynamite shed. On display are CCC stamped logs dredged from Ruggles Pond. CCC alumni, families and friends are invited. Refreshments served. Bring photos, artifacts and stories.

Contact Bryant Stewart:

**(413) 659-3797.**

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/central/wndl.htm>

#### CCC Day 2006, Upton

**June 10, 9am-4pm**

Sponsored by the Friends of Upton State Forest.

1930s music, exhibits,

Discovery hikes.

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/northeast/uptn.htm>

#### 25<sup>th</sup> Truck Show

**August 3-6, 2006**

**Wendell State Forest**

**Montague Road, Millers Falls.**

See 150 antique GM trucks (including CCC-era). Also

*Continued, next page*

### *2005 in Review, continued.*

in Monroe State Forest. Restoration work included replacing missing stones, removing plant growth from the wall, and removal of sediment from the floor of the lookout. Trail work included tread-way improvements, drainage and pruning.

### **Fall Preservation Event**

On November 21, 2005 at Trinity Church, Boston, MA, In a submission from the Upton Historic Commission, the Upton State Forest CCC Camp, consisting of parade grounds, barracks, a main building and cottages was named amongst the Commonwealth's Ten Most Endangered Historic Resources of 2005.

### **CCC Day 2005**

Cooks & Bakers of the CCC were honored in a proclamation signing by the Governor Mitt Romney.

**Bernice O'Brien**, retired state parks employee, and active CCC advisor attends some of the Chapter 158 meetings during the year, stays in touch with CCC work and keeps an eye out for obituaries of fallen CCC alumni, helping keep our membership lists in the archives current. Bernice brought the CCC work and collection of the archives to the attention Department during the 1970s and has never stopped. Congrats to Bernice for your hard work!



**Don Stoddard**, retired DEM Region 3 Director, is now Vice President of Friends of Willard Brook State Forest. Don has attended the Upton State Forest event on October 14<sup>th</sup> for the unveiling of the CCC Wayside. Don has continued his interest and support for the CCC Committee's program and efforts. Thank you Don!

### **CCC Alumni - Chapter 158**

Holyoke Chapter recently moved monthly meetings to the Hampton Ponds State Park office. Begun in 1991, this chapter formerly met at the Holyoke Soldiers Home. Due to recent rehabilitation work there, the meetings moved Hampton Ponds State Park in Westfield, MA. Chapter members have been dwindling, and currently number about 24 members. At the January

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## **Coming Events**

*continued*

an ice cream social, old-time movies, bluegrass bands, truck rodeo, model truck competition, barbeque and Smokey Bear. Great fun for families. For more info contact Bryant Stewart: (413) 659-3797.

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/central/wndl.htm>

### **Fun Day**

**Freetown State Forest  
October 1, 2006**

Join us for family Fun Day including a CCC event. For more info call: (508) 644-5522.

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/southeast/free.htm>



### ***A Blast from the Past***

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You will learn about work, people and yourself. You will learn to "take it on the chin," if necessary, without whimpering if you have the "stuff." More than two million other boys who have gone before you created the slogan, "We Can Take It."

*Paraphrased from the CCC enrollee handbook c.1936.*



### *2005 in Review, continued.*

meeting, Chapter 158 discussed plans for a tag sale to raise funds for the CCC Workers Statue. Since the inception of the Conservation Trust account for the statewide CCC program Chapter 158 has donated an exceptional \$1,057.44!

### **Water Hole Restoration**

On July 25, 2005 a crew from SCA came to F. Gilbert Hills State Forest in Foxboro to clean out and repair two CCC-built water holes for forest fire suppression. Throughout extremely hot weather, they moved large rocks had fallen out of place with hoists to reposition them.

Compliments the public were rolling in on the wonderful job. The two restored water holes looked much like they did when the CCC completed them. They now hold much more water which should get through the spring fire season, as before they dried up soon

as the water stopped flowing.

*Ron Clough, Supervisor  
F.G.Hills State Forest*

### **The CCC spirit**

is alive and well with the Massachusetts Parks AmeriCorps-Student Conservaton Association, now in its 9<sup>th</sup> year. This residential Corps consisting of intern ages 18-25, undertakes conservation projects across the Commonwealth. For more info contact:

[william.dunham@state.ma.us](mailto:william.dunham@state.ma.us) or (617) 626-1258. ☞

## **Regional & National News**

### **NACCCA Journal**

The Journal will now be published bi-monthly, due to the increased mailing cost and budgetary concerns.

To receive the Journal, regular membership dues are \$20.00 per year and a lifetime membership is \$100.00. You may join and

receive the Journal contact:

National Association of Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni (NACCCA), P.O. Box 16429, St. Louis, MO 63125. Or call (314) 487-8666, Fax: (314) 487-9488. Or email: [naccca@aol.com](mailto:naccca@aol.com). For more information visit NACCCA's website: [www.cccalumni.org](http://www.cccalumni.org)

NACCCA Northeastern Regional Director Francis J. Derwin (see page 1) urges support to increase the membership in the Northeast Region. This includes former CCC Alumni, their family and friends. Currently there are five hundred or less active members!

### **2006 National CCC Reunion**

take place on September 28-30 in Dallas, Texas. For more information contact Sally Rodriguez, (214) 243-2123, or [srodrig@mail.ci.dallas.tx.us](mailto:srodrig@mail.ci.dallas.tx.us)

### **2006 NE Region CCC Reunion**

Join CCC alumni and family on Sunday, June 11, 11am-4pm at Bear Brook State Park, off Route 28 in Allenstown, New Hampshire, site of former 1123<sup>rd</sup> Company camp. Contact Dick Violette: (603) 456-2239, or email [Dick@Violette.com](mailto:Dick@Violette.com). ☞

## **Massachusetts CCC Committee**

The current 29 members committee consists of, CCC Alumni, family, friends, DCR and former Forests and Parks employees. The committee meets four times year to promote and celebrate the Corps legacy in Massachusetts, through an annual newsletter, archives and related programming. For more information or to join contact:

Donna Stimpson or Alec Gillman, c/o Mount Greylock State Reservation  
P.O. Box 138, Lanesborough, MA 01237 (413) 499-4262  
email: [mount.greylock@state.ma.us](mailto:mount.greylock@state.ma.us)



## CCC Worker's Statue Campaign

We're almost there! by Sharon Hoey, *DCR Conservation Trust*

Once again we offer a resounding THANK YOU! to all who have made a donation to help pay for the bronze statue honoring the CCC Worker, located in Freetown State Forest. You may recall the DCR Conservation Trust is matching, dollar-for-dollar up to \$12,500, any donation to the CCC Worker's Statue. The cost of the statue and base was \$25,000. Since the previous newsletter in 2004, more than \$1,500 in additional funds have been donated. To date (winter 2006), \$8,890 has been contributed towards the goal of \$12,500. There is only \$3,610 left to raise!

### License Plate replica

Every donation of \$20 or more, receives a miniature replica of an original CCC license plate. This 3x4 inch commemorative dash plaque (see image below) is our way to thank you for your generous support of this significant monument.

Please send your tax-deductible contribution (check made out to



Conservation Trust/DCR – Statue) to the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Conservation Trust, 251 Causeway Street, Suite 600, Boston, MA 02114. For more information, call: (617) 626-1267.

### Thank You Donors!

DCR thanks the following contributors for their generous donations to the CCC Worker's Statue fundraising campaign. Many donors happen to be former CCC enrollees:

Albert Barofka  
John Brennan  
Kathryn Buckley  
Alma Cordeiro  
Everett Cornell  
Hubert D'Ambrosio\*  
Francis Derwin\*\*  
William Drew  
Kathryn Flynn  
Beatrice Geary  
*in memory of* husband William Geary  
Brian Hill  
*in memory of* "Uncle Tony" Chunglo  
Antone Horta  
Blanche Ilmonen  
Gerald Johnson  
James Kallelis  
Robert Kitchen  
Arthur LaFlamme  
Paul Lapointe  
Linda Levernoch  
Madelyn Linscott  
Joseph Misiaszek  
Carl Mortensen\*\*\*  
*in memory of* Jennifer Korash & John Krostoski  
James Motherway  
Timothy Mullaney



Richard Murphy  
Albert Newcomb  
Sebastian Pina  
Stanley Rak  
Edward Rimelis  
Tony Sanchez, Sr. \*\*\*\*  
The Family of Vernon Schertel  
Michael Smith  
George Vinskey  
Francis Walsh  
Joan Zablosky

### Footnotes

\*NACCCA, MA Chapter 158 President  
\*\*NACCCA, Northeast Regional Director & MA Chapter 60 President  
\*\*\*NACCCA, MA Chapter 158 Vice President  
\*\*\*\*NACCCA, NM Chapter 141

